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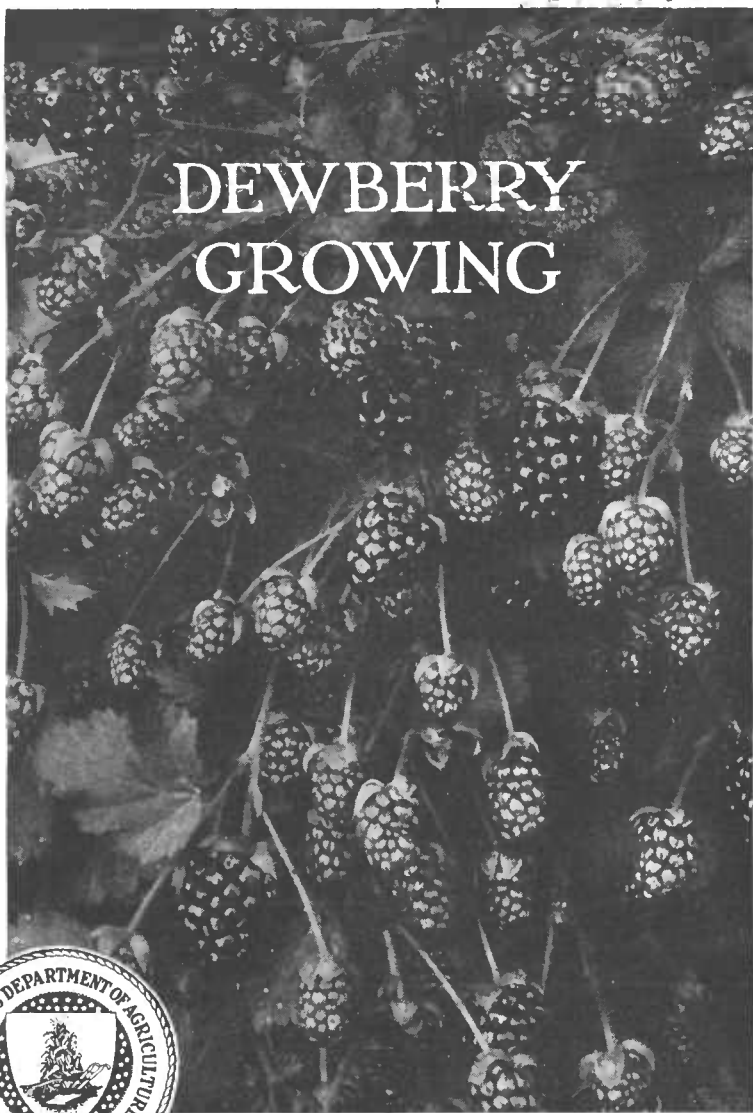
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# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 1403

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BERRY

## DEWBERRY GROWING



**T**HE DEWBERRY, called also "trailing blackberry", is extensively grown in a few localities in North Carolina, Michigan, New York, and New Jersey where, because of the skill of the growers in using special methods of training and culture, it is very profitable. Since the introduction of the Young variety it has been much more widely raised in the Southern and Western States.

This bulletin points out certain of these operations which have been found essential. In the North Carolina dewberry section the operations of greatest importance seem to be (1) the removal of all canes, old and new, as soon as the crop is picked; (2) the application of large quantities of fertilizer in early spring and again in midsummer immediately after the canes have been cut out; and (3) the training of the canes to tall stakes.

In the Michigan section the covering of the basal portion of the canes of the Lucretia in late fall to prevent winter injury is considered of primary importance. In the New York section protection from winter injury by allowing weeds to grow and cover the canes is considered important.

Cultivation and harvesting are discussed, and carriers which materially reduce picking costs are illustrated.

The new variety, the Young, is recommended for planting in the Southern and the Pacific Coast States.

# DEWBERRY GROWING

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**T**HE DEWBERRY is closely related to the blackberry, having a root that lives for many years and a top that lives only 2 years. Like the blackberry, it bears fruit upon last year's canes, which die soon after they have fruited. It is distinguished from the blackberry in having canes that trail on the ground, while those of most blackberries are upright. From this habit it receives the name "trailing blackberry", which it actually is. In the wild state the canes of the dewberry form new plants by rooting at the tips, while blackberries propagate themselves chiefly by suckers. Further, the dewberry fruit clusters are small and open, while the blackberry clusters are usually rather dense (fig. 1).

The fruit of the dewberry is similar to that of the blackberry, but because dewberries ripen earlier than most true blackberries their culture has proved profitable in many sections. Because the canes of the dewberry trail on the ground instead of growing erect, as do those of true blackberries, the methods of raising these fruits are very different. Blackberry culture is discussed in another bulletin.<sup>1</sup>

Recent investigations indicate that all the principal varieties of dewberries are, in reality, hybrids between blackberries and dewberries. In the wild, many hybrids of blackberries and dewberries are to be found, some with trailing canes and some with arched canes but nearly all rooting at the tips. In Europe no distinct line of separation is made between blackberries and dewberries. Varieties of blackberries introduced from that continent are all semierect and root at the tips of the canes. Thus, the Himalaya and Evergreen varieties behave in this manner, as does also the Logan blackberry<sup>2</sup> of the Pacific coast regions of the United States.

## HISTORY OF THE DEWBERRY

The cultivated dewberry is a native of North America, and all varieties are of American origin. The Lucretia was the first to be

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<sup>1</sup> Farmers' Bulletin 1399, Blackberry Growing.

<sup>2</sup> See Farmers' Bulletin 998, Culture of the Logan Blackberry and Related Varieties. Out of print, but may be consulted in libraries.

introduced into general cultivation. It was found in West Virginia soon after the Civil War and brought to general notice about 1886. Since then many other varieties have been introduced. About 1926 the Young variety was introduced. It is a hybrid of the Mayes and the Phenomenal, and because of its delicious flavor has given a great stimulus to dewberry growing in the South and West.

The States in which the Lucretia dewberry is grown most extensively on a commercial scale are North Carolina, Michigan, New York, and New Jersey. The centers of the industry in those States are Cameron, N. C., Benton Harbor, Mich., Germantown, N. Y., and Hammonton, N. J. The Young dewberry is grown extensively in California and Oregon and to a limited extent in most of the Southern States. The Lucretia variety is not very hardy, and for

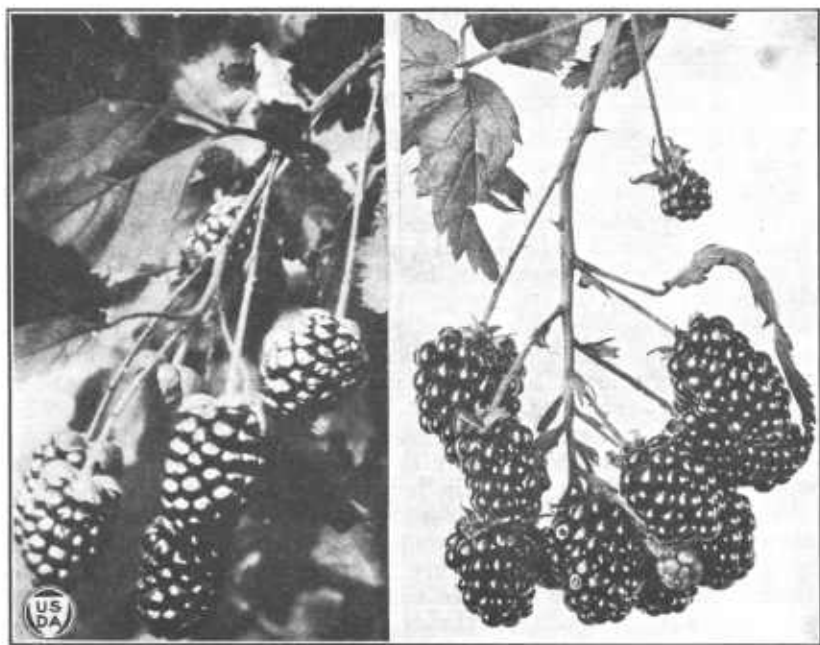


FIGURE 1.—A fruit cluster of the Lucretia dewberry (on the left) and of the Mersereau blackberry (on the right). Note the small cluster of the dewberry, with its long berry stems, as compared with the larger and denser cluster of the blackberry.

this reason its culture has been confined in the past to the milder climates. The Young is less hardy and is grown chiefly from a little south of Washington, D. C., to southern Missouri southward and on the Pacific coast.

#### SITE AND LOCATION OF A PLANTATION

In regions where winter conditions are severe, the site for a dewberry plantation should be as well protected as possible from cold and from winds. In order to provide good air drainage, a site elevated above the surrounding country is preferred. However, it should not be exposed to drying winds or to other trying conditions.

Long hauls by wagons and motor trucks and jolting over rough roads will bruise the berries so they will not hold up well on the market. Therefore, the plantation should be as near local markets or a shipping station as possible.

### SOILS

In the wild state dewberries are found in open fields and pastures and by roadsides, especially where the soil is poor and the growth of grass and herbage is thin. In such locations its leaves can get more sunlight than where the soil is rich and the grass rank. The cultivated dewberry is grown on many types of soil. Though the plants will grow on poor land, it is necessary in order to produce good crops of fruit that it be fertile or that plant food be supplied. In North Carolina the soil in many of the large dewberry fields is a coarse sand. Fertilizers are applied liberally to plantations on such soils. In other sections clay loams and other soils are used for dewberry fields, and if they are fertile less plant food need be added. As the dewberry has a very deep root, it is able to get moisture from a considerable depth and is, therefore, not as subject to drought as raspberries and most blackberries.

Dewberries should not be set on wet soil. Because of their deep rooting system they are more susceptible than many other fruits to injury by wet soils. In some sections root rot has been found to kill plants where the soil was only slightly wet; on the other hand, the soil must furnish a sufficient moisture supply, especially at the time the berries are developing and ripening. Coarse sandy loams with a clay subsoil are the leading soil types in three of the principal dewberry sections. Any fertile soil provided with good drainage and yet with a good supply of humus to retain moisture is suitable for growing dewberries.

### PREPARATION OF THE SOIL

As the dewberry plants are to occupy the soil for several years the land should be very thoroughly fitted before they are set out. If the soil lacks humus, cover crops should be grown before the dewberries are planted. Much better results will follow if the land is planted to cultivated crops for 2 years prior to setting it to dewberries. The plants will grow better the first year, and a crop will be borne earlier than without such preparation. Often very little fruit is obtained the year after planting, yet figure 2 shows a plantation set the previous year which was yielding a good crop. This field had been carefully prepared before the plants were set.

### PLANTING

Dewberry plants are usually set during the winter and early spring in the South and in early spring in the North. As the tips of the canes which root in the fall continue to develop until very late, more mature plants will be obtained in the spring. For this reason fall planting is not practiced. Figure 3 shows strong Lucretia dewberry plants ready to be set. Because the essential factor of success in planting dewberries is a moist soil, they should be set as early in the spring as possible, for there is usually more moisture in the ground then than later and a larger percentage of the plants will live.

The plants should be set as soon as possible after being received from a nursery or after being dug. Exposure of the roots to the air dries and weakens them. In planting, the soil should be thoroughly packed about the roots. Thorough packing brings the soil moisture in contact with the roots and prevents the air from drying them.

The hill system of training, as shown in figure 2, is commonly used in North Carolina, and the plants are usually set 5 feet apart each way. If the canes are to be trained in solid rows the plants are usually set in New Jersey 3 feet apart in rows which are 4 to 6 feet apart and in Michigan  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in rows 7 feet apart. In the Germantown section of New York they are set 2 feet by 7 to 8 feet apart. Figure 4 shows a field planted 3 by 6 feet in which the canes



FIGURE 2.—A field of Lucretia dewberries in North Carolina bearing a good crop the year after planting. Photographed June 12.

are to be trained to stakes. Figure 5 shows a field in which the canes are trained to a low trellis. A trellis of this type, but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet high, is recommended for the Young variety.

#### INTERCROPS

During the first season, vegetable intercrops that require frequent cultivation early in the season may be grown between the rows. Lettuce, radishes, early cabbage, beans, and cauliflower are well adapted to this purpose, as they can be harvested before the dewberry canes become very long. If the soil has been properly fitted and the plants grow well, the canes should begin to spread over the ground by July or August. Intercrops that require cultivation later than August should not be grown, as the young canes are likely to be injured.

## CULTIVATION

Cultivation should begin immediately after the plants are set. In some sections cultivation should be as frequent as once a week during the first season, in order to keep the ground moist and the plantation free from weeds. In others, such frequent cultivation will not be necessary, once every 10 days being sufficient. When the canes which are allowed to trail on the ground for the first year begin to interfere, cultivation is discontinued and nothing further done in the field until the following spring except in sections where winter protection is necessary. If later cultivation is required the canes should be carefully pushed to one side. Any work among the plants during the autumn or winter is likely to injure the canes, which become very brittle and when loaded with fruit are very easily broken.

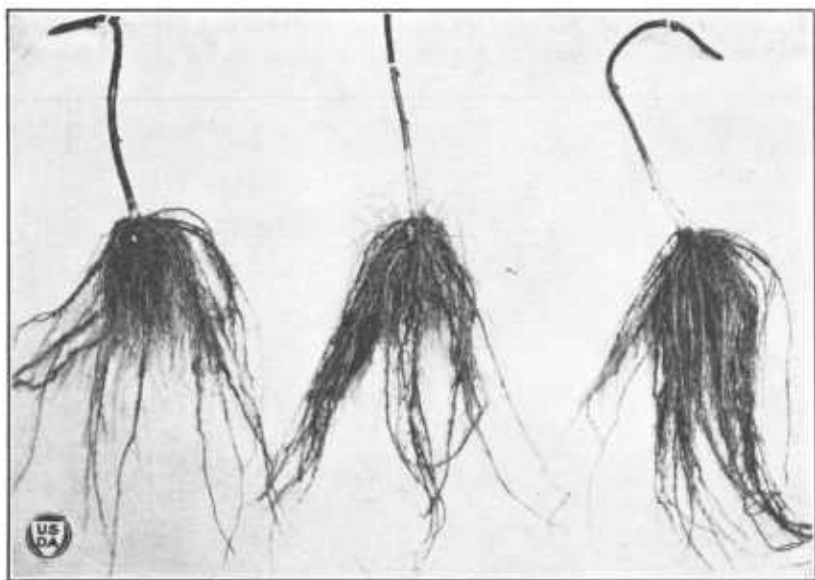


FIGURE 3.—Tip-rooted Lucretia dewberry plants ready to be set.

If they are bruised, they may break off at the bruised point during the next fruiting season, and the fruit will be lost.

In most sections the canes are tied to stakes or wires before growth starts in the spring. Cultivation should be started immediately after growth begins and continued at frequent intervals until the new canes begin to interfere with cultivation, which is usually some time in August. In the New York section, however, cultivation usually ceases by picking time. Weeds which come in later are left to protect the canes in winter.

## COVER CROPS

At the last cultivation some growers sow a cover crop broadcast in the plantation, to be turned under the following spring. In sections where cowpeas are used, 1 or 2 rows are drilled between the rows of berry plants. Wherever possible, cover crops should be used, as they help to protect the canes during the winter, prevent the

land from washing, and add humus to the soil. If cowpeas are used and the vines grow very long, they may increase the expenses of tying up the canes in the spring, but the value of the cover crop will usually more than offset this.

### FERTILIZERS

The use of fertilizers in dewberry fields must be governed by the same principles that apply to their use with other fruits. As soils vary in the quantity and availability of the plant food they contain, the fertilizer problem is a local one which each grower must solve for himself. By varying the quantities of the different elements of plant food on different plots and keeping a record of the yield, each grower can readily determine what kinds and quantities of fertilizers to apply.

In one section of North Carolina dewberries are grown on coarse sandy soils. These soils as a rule are lacking in all the elements of



FIGURE 4.—A field of Lucretia dewberries in New Jersey in their first season's growth, following spring planting. Photographed July 30.

fertility, and the application of a complete fertilizer is usually necessary. Although larger quantities of fertilizer are applied than may be generally necessary, the following description of the practices of successful growers in this section may prove of interest:

As soon as the plants have become established and are 2 or 3 inches high, cottonseed meal or stable manure is used to encourage a vigorous growth the first season. Some growers use about 500 pounds of cottonseed meal, while others use 10 to 15 tons of stable manure per acre.

After the first season two applications of fertilizer are given each year, the first one being made as soon as the canes have been tied up in the spring. At this time a complete fertilizer is usually applied, composed of 2 or 3 percent of nitrogen, 10 percent of phosphoric acid, and 8 percent of potash. Some growers, having found that they do not need nitrogen for their soils, apply only potash and phosphoric acid. The quantity applied likewise varies with the soil and with the different growers, but 500 to 700 pounds per acre of a fertilizer analyzing 2-10-8 is commonly used.

The second application of fertilizer is made immediately after the fruit has been picked, and all the canes, both old and new, are cut off, the object being to

induce a rapid growth of vigorous new canes for the next year's crop. A fertilizer containing a large proportion of nitrogen is used at this time. Either stable manure or cottonseed meal is commonly used. An application of 500 to 600 pounds of cottonseed meal per acre is considered sufficient, although there are growers using as much as 1,000 pounds. Growers using stable manure consider an application of 10 to 20 tons per acre sufficient. In addition to supplying nitrogen, stable manure adds large amounts of humus to the soil and is preferred when it can be readily secured.

The practices mentioned above are those used by successful growers in North Carolina and should prove helpful to growers in other sections in determining the applications for use under their particular conditions.



FIGURE 5.—Dewberries trained to two low wires. Photographed near Los Angeles, Calif.

#### SYSTEMS OF TRAINING AND PRUNING

The system of training to be used depends on the climate, the cost of materials, and individual preference. In general, for the Young variety a two-wire trellis about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet high, similar to that shown in figure 5, is used, because it is more satisfactory. For the Lucretia variety, where suitable stakes can be secured for a reasonable price the system of placing one at each hill and tying the canes to it is most satisfactory.

Figure 6 shows a field of the Lucretia with the plants 5 feet distant in rows 5 feet apart and a stake driven beside each plant. With

the Young variety the plants should be 6 by 6 or 4 by 8 feet for cross cultivation. Under this system the plants are farther apart than under other systems. The expense of cultivation will be less, as more can be done with horse labor and very little hand-hoeing will be needed. Picking will be much easier than under most other systems, and fewer berries will be lost.

Under North Carolina conditions, where the canes of *Lucretia* grow vigorously, the stakes should be from 7 to 7½ feet long. There the stakes are made from yellow pine and are about 1½ by 1½ to 2 by 3 inches in size. In other sections stakes of any kind of wood that will not decay quickly in the ground are used. These stakes, placed about 3 inches to one side of the plant, are driven about 18 inches into the ground. The canes are tied to the stakes in early

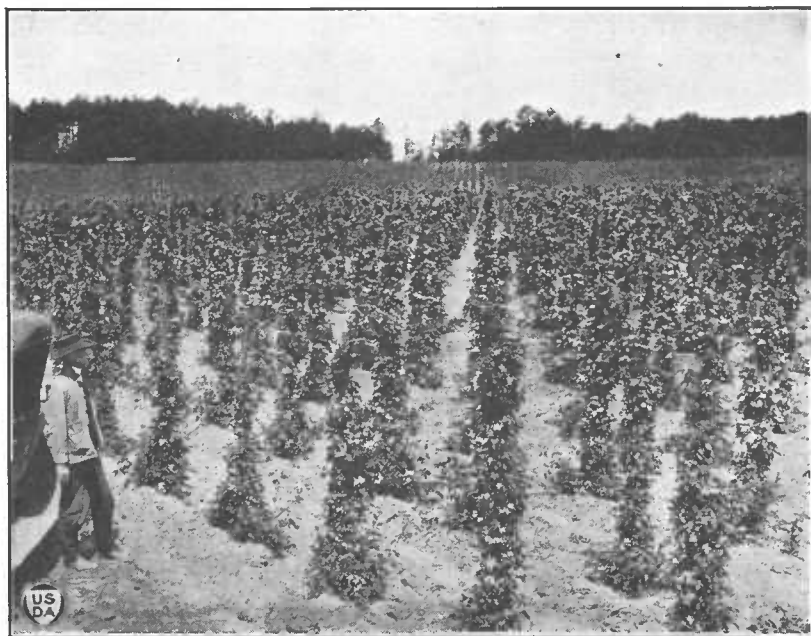


FIGURE 6.—A *Lucretia* dewberry field in North Carolina, with the plants set 5 by 5 feet apart and the canes trained to stakes. The Young should be set 6 by 6 or 4 by 8 feet, as it is more vigorous.

spring. This is done before growth starts, but after danger of severe freezing weather is past. Gloves are used in gathering the canes in a bundle and winding them around the stake in a spiral, as shown in figure 2. The canes are tied to the stake in 2 or 3 places, once at the top, and either once more halfway up the stake or in 2 places distributed along the stake. Soft string must be used for this tying, as a small, hard string is likely to break the canes. The ends of the canes are cut off about 6 inches beyond the upper tying. The ends are often bowed before tying, to prevent slipping down the stake, as shown in figure 7.

In New Jersey the canes are commonly trained to stakes as in North Carolina, but the stakes are much shorter, as shown in figure 8.

In North Carolina and in other States having a similar growing season, all the canes, both old and new, are cut off as close to the crown of the plant as possible immediately after the fruit has been picked. Figure 9 shows a tool used for this purpose. If there is a severe drought this cutting should be delayed until after a rain. The canes are removed from the field and usually burned. After they have been removed cultivation should start at once and be continued until the new canes begin to interfere. This will induce a vigorous new growth, on which the fruit for the following year will be borne. The new canes are allowed to run on the ground and are left there



FIGURE 7.—Dewberry canes, the ends of which have been bowed before tying at the top of the stake to prevent slipping.



FIGURE 8.—A Lucretia dewberry trained to a low stake in southern New Jersey.

until the next spring, when they are tied to stakes in the same manner as the previous year's growth.

Sometimes, instead of single plants 5 feet distant two plants are used. These are set about a foot apart and a stake is driven into the ground between them, the canes of both plants being trained to it. This method of planting offers no advantages over a field with one plant beside each stake, provided such a field is properly treated.

Another similar system is shown in figure 10, where the plants are set 3 feet apart in rows 5 feet apart. More plants are used to the acre by this method, and the yields recorded for such fields have been very much less than for the system where the plants are set 5 feet apart each way. More hand labor also is required under this

system, and the training, though like that in the system described, is more difficult.

Still another method is illustrated in figure 11. Under this system the plants are usually set 3 feet apart in rows 6 feet apart. A stake projecting about 3 feet above the ground is set half way between two plants. Sometimes in the Central West the canes from each of the two hills are brought directly to the top of the stake, the canes from one hill tied to those from the other, and both sets of canes tied to the top of the stake. On the Pacific coast a stiff curved wire is sometimes used to help support the canes. One end of the wire is placed in one hill. It is curved over the top of the stake and fastened to it, and the other end is placed in the second hill. The canes from each hill are wound around this wire before being tied to the end of the stake. This system of tying the canes from two hills to one stake seems especially adapted to regions where the canes do not grow very long.

In southwestern Michigan and in the Germantown section in New York, where stakes are expensive, and quite generally with the

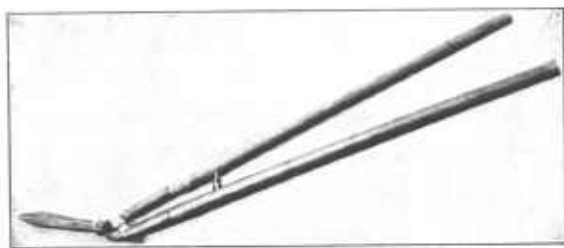


FIGURE 9.—Long-handled shears used in North Carolina for pruning dewberries. The steel blades are curved upward, thus enabling the pruner to cut the canes close to the crown without much stooping.

Young variety, a wire trellis is used. The Lucretia plants are set about 2 to 2½ feet apart in rows 7 to 8 feet apart. Posts are set along the row, from 20 to 40 feet apart, depending on their strength and the vigor of the canes. In Michigan the posts project about 3½ feet above

the ground, and a wire about 2½ feet above the ground is stretched along them. In New York the wire is about 4 feet above the ground and the posts correspondingly high. In both States the canes are gathered together in a bunch and tied to the wire, as shown in figure 12. The ends are commonly cut off 8 to 12 inches above the wire. In Michigan sometimes, however, the ends are tied along the wire and left to bear fruit. With the Young variety, the two-wire trellis shown in figure 5 is liked by many.

In some regions posts are set about 5½ feet high, and two wires are strung one above the other, about 3 and 5 feet above the ground. The canes are tied to the wires, part along the upper wire and part along the lower. This method is used on the Pacific coast with the Young variety.

Occasionally neither stakes nor a wire trellis is used. The plants are set from 18 to 36 inches apart in rows 4 to 6 feet apart. Throughout the summer the plants are cultivated in one direction only. The tips are usually allowed to root at will along the row, but not between the rows. In Texas, where this system is used, it is necessary before picking to go over the plantation with a sickle or knife to cut the new canes back. The canes interfere with the pickers, and the cutting back does not injure the plants. After the crop has been

harvested the canes are mowed as close to the ground as is possible with a machine. When dry, they are burned without being removed from the field. This cleans the field of diseases and insects that may be on the canes, besides saving the cost of removing the old canes. The fields are then cultivated during the remainder of the summer, and the new canes are allowed to make a solid row.

Occasionally, in Texas, a plow is also used to cut off all the plants just below the crowns. This removes all diseases and insects in the crowns, and the new canes spring directly from the roots. These canes will not be as strong as those from the crown, but will bear a good crop the following year and a full one the second year. In Texas many dewberry fields when trained in this manner are mulched during the winter or spring with prairie hay. The berries are borne so near the ground that a thick layer of this hay is needed



FIGURE 10.—A Lucretia dewberry field in North Carolina, showing plants set 3 feet apart in rows 5 feet apart and the canes from two plants trained to one stake. Photographed June 8.

between the rows to protect both the pickers and the berries from the soil in case of rain. It also helps to conserve the moisture. After picking is over, the hay can be placed on the rows to help burn the old canes. Sometimes as the new canes come up, the ends are pinched back so they will form a small much-branched bush.

In Colorado no trellis is used, and the plants are trained in rows. When the young canes reach a height of about 18 inches they are cut back to about 12 inches, to force the laterals to start. Just before picking, the laterals are shortened to enable the pickers to get the berries easily. No further pruning is done until the following spring, when the dead canes which fruited the previous season are removed and the live ones shortened to about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Under this system clean picking is difficult, and many soft berries are liable to be put into the baskets, as the fruit is often partially concealed by the foliage.

Variations of this system are in use. Stakes projecting about a foot above the ground are set about 10 feet apart along the row, with a wire strung on the tops of them, and the canes are thrown over the wire, as shown in figure 5. Sometimes two rows of stakes about 12 inches apart, with wires as in the single row of stakes, are used. The canes are simply allowed to grow over the wires.

#### WINTER PROTECTION

In the Southern States, and in most of those States where snow covers the ground through the winter, no protection of the canes is necessary, as they trail close to the ground. In some parts of the central Western and Northern States the canes must be protected during the winter.

In the Michigan section this is usually accomplished by covering the canes with 2 or 3 inches of earth. Growers there cover the first



FIGURE 11.—A field of dewberry plants in eastern Maryland trained to posts. The canes of two plants are tied to the top of one post. Photographed May 26.

2 or 3 feet of the basal growth, while many believe that all the canes to be saved for fruit bearing should be covered. If the plants are in solid rows this can be done very cheaply by turning a furrow about 3 inches deep on the plants. The canes should be covered before there is danger of hard freezes and uncovered in the spring after the danger of freezing is past. In the Germantown section of New York protection is afforded by allowing weeds and grass to grow in the fields, and as these die in the fall they cover much of the growth.

#### HARVESTING

Dewberries are picked and handled in the same manner as blackberries. They are usually picked in pint or quart baskets and sent to market in crates holding either 16 or 32 baskets. Figure 13 shows a crate of Lucretia dewberries. The same care should be observed in handling dewberries as in handling blackberries. The fruit should be picked at regular intervals, usually every other day.

In some sections in very warm weather it will be necessary to pick every day, while in cooler weather 3 or 4 days may intervene between pickings. All ripe berries should be picked, because if any are left they will be too soft at the next picking to be shipped with the other berries. These overripe berries, as well as injured or bruised berries, will decay more rapidly than sound ones and may cause all the adjacent berries in the basket to decay.

In North Carolina young plants carry their fruit well distributed up the stake, but as the plants become older more short laterals are produced near the base and a mass of fruit is borne there, as shown in figure 14.

The picking carriers shown in figures 15 and 16 are very useful. The waist carrier is used only when the canes are tied to stakes.



FIGURE 12.—*Lucretia* dewberries trained to a one-wire trellis. All the canes are gathered in a bundle, tied to the wire, and the canes cut off about 6 inches beyond. This system is the principal one used in southwestern Michigan and in eastern New York.

#### YIELDS

The yields of dewberry plantations vary greatly with the different conditions under which they are grown. The results obtained by growers in North Carolina indicate the possibilities. Crops of 100 crates of 32 quarts each per acre are obtained there by some, year after year, and the better plantations often yield 150 crates. Though the average yields may be somewhat smaller, good plantations favorably located should yield as much. Some growers average much more, but these men show exceptional ability or have exceptional conditions. Figure 17 shows part of a field of the *Lucretia* variety, now 12 years old, which has averaged more than 100 crates an acre per annum since coming into bearing.

In North Carolina, 1-year-old fields in good condition often yield 35 to 50 crates per acre and a full crop when 2 years old. In Michi-

gan no crop is expected until the second year and a full crop the third or fourth year.

#### DISEASES<sup>a</sup> AND INSECTS

There are three serious diseases of the dewberry—anthracnose, leaf spot, and rosette or double blossom. Other diseases which may be serious in some sections are cane blight, root rots, and cane rust. Dewberry growers at present pay little attention to the latter two diseases, though they undoubtedly cause considerable injury at times. The anthracnose and double blossom are more serious and have been controlled by cutting off all the canes, both old and new, immediately after harvesting the crop; in fact, this cutting out of all the canes after the harvest is considered by southern growers as the most im-

portant operation in dewberry culture. In North Carolina the canes should be cut as close to the crown as possible and removed from the field. By thorough cultivation and the use of fertilizers vigorous new canes free from these two diseases will be grown by fall for bearing the next year's crop. In Texas the common practice is to mow the field after harvesting the crop and to burn the canes in the fields. Sometimes a bush scythe or sharp hoe is used for cutting the canes.

Wherever the growing season is long

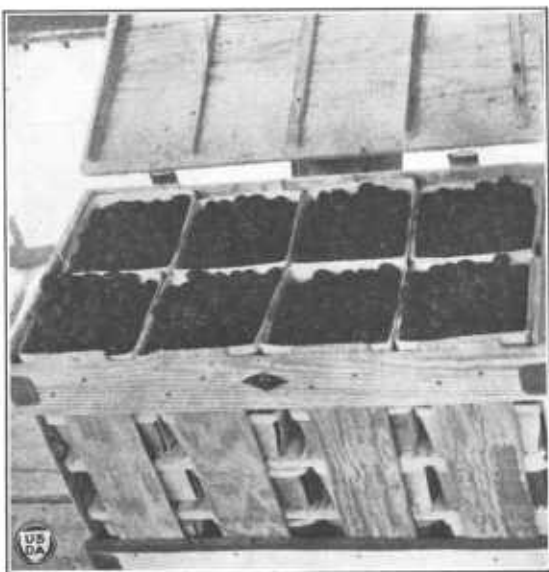


FIGURE 13.—A 32-quart crate of *Licetia* dewberries grown in North Carolina.

enough to allow sufficient new growth to mature before winter to bear the next season's crop, either the North Carolina or Texas method should be used. Anthracnose is a serious disease in nearly all parts of the country. Where the canes are not cut off after picking, a dormant spray of lime-sulphur should be applied just as growth starts in the spring. Double blossom is common in New Jersey, Tennessee, and States south of them and as far west as Texas. This disease has been controlled in northern sections where the canes are not cut off after picking by removing all buds which show infection in the spring. In Louisiana, however, the above-mentioned measures have not proved effective, but recent experiments there have shown that the disease can be controlled by spraying with bordeaux mixture 4-4-50 every 10 days up to June 1. By cutting out the new canes about May 1 only the new growth made in May need be sprayed, and only 2 or 3 sprayings will be needed.

<sup>a</sup> See Farmers' Bulletin 1488, Diseases of Raspberries and Blackberries.

Insect attack is not usually serious on dewberries. Specific information in regard to both insects and diseases may be obtained by writing to the nearest State agricultural experiment station or to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and furnishing specimens of the affected parts.

#### PROPAGATION

Plants may be procured from any reliable nursery at a reasonable price, and in starting a plantation this procedure is usually followed. Dewberry growers already having a plantation usually raise their own plants by covering the tips of the young canes with a few inches of soil late in the summer or early in the autumn. These tips will root freely, and new plants will be ready to dig late that fall or early



FIGURE 14.—A dewberry plant in North Carolina having not only a rope of fruit up the stake but a mass of fruit borne on short laterals at the base.

the next spring. A rooted tip should be cut off 4 to 6 inches from the ground when desired for planting. Only the strongest plants should be set.

Sometimes the dewberry is propagated by means of root cuttings. When this method is used, pieces of the larger roots about 3 inches long are planted 2 or 3 inches deep. If the root cuttings are placed in moist but not wet sand in the late autumn they should have caloused by spring. They should then be planted in the nursery row to grow for 1 year, after which they are ready to set in the field. This method is not often used, as rooted tips are obtained so easily.

#### DURATION OF THE PLANTATION

The duration of the plantation will doubtless depend on the section of the country in which it is located, on the system of train-

ing used, and on the attention given it. In North Carolina, plantations 15 years old are still productive. A few fields even older are still yielding well, but most of them have been planted too recently to make possible an accurate estimate of their probable life.

#### POLLINATION

It has been found that when certain varieties of dewberries are planted by themselves no berries will be formed. The reason is that the flowers of such varieties do not have pollen that will fertilize their pistils. Some variety having flowers that open at the same time and bear an abundance of good pollen must be planted near them. Bees and other insects will then carry the pollen from the flowers of one variety to those of the other. The Young, Lucretia, and Mayes varieties are usually self-fertile and may be planted by themselves without provision for cross-pollination. The Premo and some other varieties less widely known, such as the Chestnut, Manatee, and Rogers, are reported to be not entirely self-fertile, and



FIGURE 15.—Different types of waist and hand carriers used chiefly in picking raspberries and blackberries.

should be planted with other varieties as pollinizers. The usual method is to plant two rows of one variety; then two rows of a second variety.

#### VARIETIES

Very few varieties of dewberries are widely grown in the United States; the Lucretia and the Young are the leading varieties. In Texas the Mayes is still raised, though the Young has largely replaced it, while in the other Gulf Coast States few dewberries of any kind are grown. The Thornless Young is, like the Young, wine-colored and has excellent dessert quality. It is remarkably resistant to some of the common dewberry diseases.

The following notes will indicate the more important characteristics of the leading varieties:

**Ideal Wild.**—A perfect-flowered variety, raised to some extent in Oregon, derived from the Pacific coast trailing blackberry. It is of very high dessert quality.

**Lucretia.**—This is the best known and most widely grown dewberry. The canes are very vigorous and productive. In protected locations this variety is

hardy in the Northern States. In Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, and neighboring States it is usually protected in the winter by being covered with soil. The canes are susceptible to anthracnose and double blossom. The berries are large, long, firm, and of good quality; they are picked for shipping as soon as they turn black, but do not become very sweet unless they are left on the plants a day or two longer. They ripen about June 1 in the North Carolina section and are later than the Mayes or Premo varieties.

**Mayes** (synonym, *Austin Mayes*).—This variety originated in Texas and has been the leading one in that State. It has been grown to a slight extent in many other States, but, although considered more productive and earlier than the *Lucretia*, it is too soft to ship far. The canes are vigorous, productive, and subject to double blossom and anthracnose. The berries are large, not as long as the *Lucretia*, and have large drupelets. (See fig. 1.) Although soft for shipping, they are of excellent quality. The variety ripens at least a week before the *Lucretia* and slightly earlier than the *Premo*.

**Premo**.—The *Premo* has been grown to some extent in the dewberry section of North Carolina and in other localities in the Eastern States. It ripens its fruit in North Carolina nearly a week earlier than the *Lucretia*. The plants resemble the *Lucretia* very closely, but are not so productive. The flowers are imperfect, and plants of one of the other varieties must be set near to pollinate this variety. The berries average slightly smaller than the *Lucretia*, but are as firm and as good in quality.

**Thornless Young**.—Like the *Young*, but thornless. Shoots from the roots are always thorny. It seems to be slightly harder and possibly a little more productive than the *Young*.

**Young** (*Youngberry*).—This variety was originated about 1905 by B. M. Young, of southern Louisiana, as the result of a cross of the *Phenomenal* and *Mayes*. It is widely grown in the Southern States and the Pacific Coast States and is grown commercially near Mobile, Ala. Its canes are more vigorous than those of the *Lucretia*, and though it is hardy 100 miles south of Washington, D. C., it is not as hardy as the *Lucretia*. The canes are very resistant to anthracnose and the

foliage to the common leaf spot, but the buds are subject to the double-blossom disease in the Southern States. The berries are larger than those of the *Lucretia*, attractive, deep wine colored, much sweeter than the *Logan* or *Lucretia* when ripe, and of exceptionally high dessert quality; the expressed juice is apparently equal to that of the *Logan*; it ripens about with the *Lucretia* but continues to ripen for 10 days thereafter. It is recommended for the region from Richmond, Va., to southern Missouri, south to northern Florida, and to the Pacific Coast States west of the Cascade Mountains.

**Zelinski**.—A new pistillate variety raised to a slight extent in Oregon, which was derived from the Pacific coast trailing blackberry. It is of very high quality but must be planted with the *Ideal Wild*, *Young*, or *Logan* as a pollinizer.



FIGURE 16.—A hand carrier for holding 6-quart or 8-pint baskets. The waist carrier shown is designed to hold a quart basket, leaving both hands free for picking where tall stakes or a high trellis are used.

## HYBRIDS AND RELATED FORMS

Several other varieties of dewberries are grown to a slight extent, some of which give promise of being available in certain limited sections. There are also several blackberries and blackberry-dewberry hybrids, which are sometimes, or usually, trained like the dewberries. Thus, the McDonald, a blackberry-dewberry hybrid, listed with blackberries in a previous publication,<sup>4</sup> is trained in the same manner as dewberries in Texas. Farther north it is commonly trained in a manner similar to that of the ordinary blackberry. It ripens nearly 10 days before the Lucretia and may be planted in dewberry sections with the Lucretia as a pollinizer. The Mammoth, another blackberry-dewberry hybrid listed in Farmers' Bulletin 1399 and grown on the Pacific coast, trails on the ground like the dewberries. It is, however, somewhat more vigorous and should have a pollinizer. On the Pacific coast and in New Jersey the Evergreen blackberry (*Black Diamond*, *Star*, *Wonder*, *Ewing Wonder*, *Atlantic Dewberry*) is



FIGURE 17.—A Lucretia dewberry field in North Carolina set in 1908 which has averaged more than 100 crates per acre since coming into bearing. Photographed June 10.

trained by a method similar to that used for dewberries. In New Jersey it is trained to stakes, such as are illustrated in figure 17, or a trellis. In Oregon and Washington it is trained to a wire trellis.

<sup>4</sup> Farmers' Bulletin 1399, Blackberry Growing.